



12-08-03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

DRAKE et al.

Serial No.: 10/625,916

Filed: July 23, 2003

Atty. File No.: 4471-1-DIV-CON

For: "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
MINING HYDROCARBON-
CONTAINING MATERIALS"

) Group Art Unit:

) Examiner:

) FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

) Express Mail Label: EL975240582US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

Prior to the initial review of the above-identified patent application by the Examiner, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment. Although Applicants do not believe that any fees are due based upon the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge any such fees to Deposit Account 19-1970.

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: